



# **2013 Municipal Election: An Analysis & Recommendations**

**Presentation to the Standing Committee on Elections  
Tuesday, March 25, 2014**

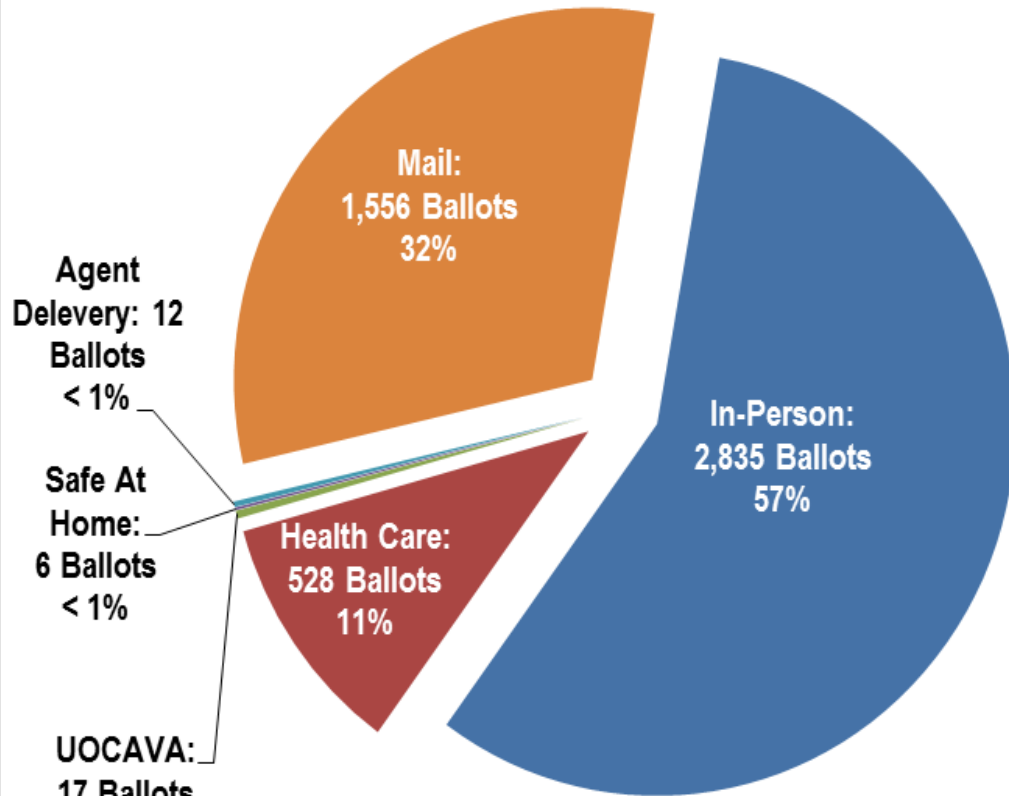
# Basic Statistics

## MINNEAPOLIS

- ▶ Pre-Registered Voters: 233,351\*\*
- ▶ Number of Precincts: 117 (active)
- ▶ Absentee Ballots: 4,954
  - ▶ *2,835 of these were in-person absentee voters*
  - ▶ *528 of these were health care facility voters*
- ▶ Election Day Registrations: 5,926\*\*
- ▶ Total Election Day Voters: 75,145
- ▶ Total Number of Ballots Cast: 80,099
- ▶ **Percentage Turnout: 33.38%**



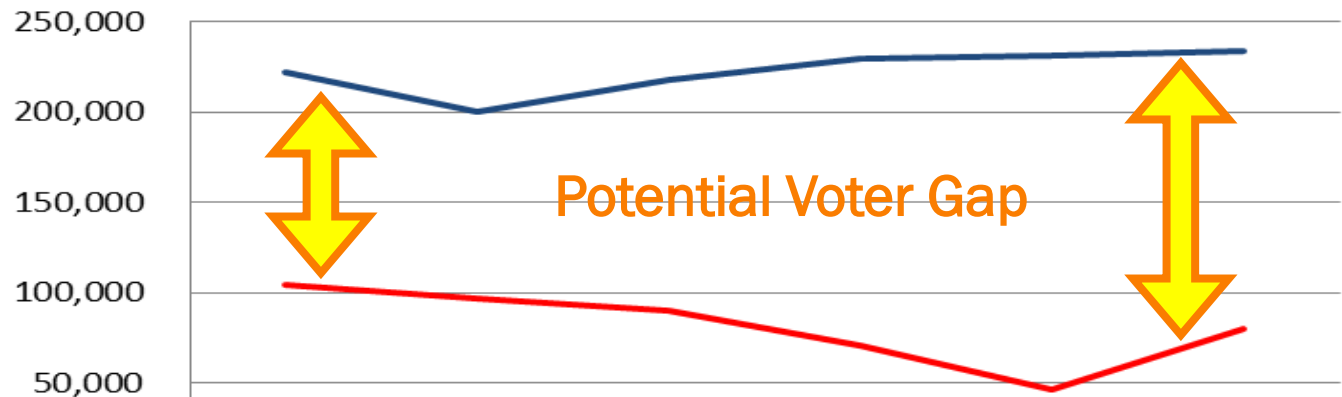
# Absentee Voting



Type of AB Ballots	Number
In-person	2,835
Mail	1,556
Health Care	528
UOCAVA	17
Agent Delivery	12
Safe At Home	6
TOTALS	4,954

# Municipal Turnout: 1993-2013

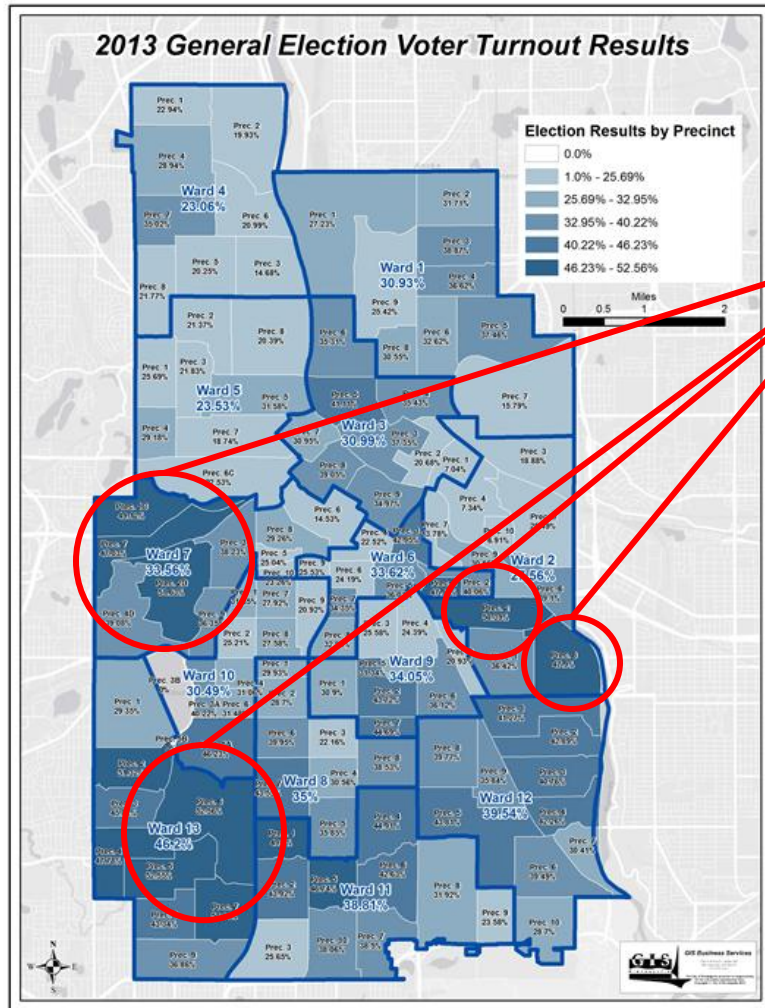
## Municipal Elections: Voter Turnout



	1993	1997	2001	2005	2009	2013
— Pre-Registered Voters	222,101	200,311	217,802	229,593	231,078	233,351
— Total Voter Turnout	104,626	96,772	89,927	70,987	45,968	80,099
Potential Voter Gap	117,475	103,539	127,875	158,606	185,110	153,252

*The “potential voter gap” increased by 13 points during the 20-year timeframe, from 1993-2013.*

# Voter Turnout by Neighborhood



Neighborhoods with the highest voter turnout/participation:

- Bryn Mawr
- Cooper
- Fulton
- Kenny
- Kenwood
- Linden Hills
- Lynnhurst
- Seward

# RCV: Systems, Procedures & Improvements

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- 1) Use Election Night First-Choice Results to Declare Winners
- 2) Count Only Declared Write-In Candidates
- 3) Improve Policy Guidance on Voter Intent



***Results for 14 of the 22 races declared on Election Night.  
All results reported within 72 hours after Election Day.***



# New Voting System & Equipment

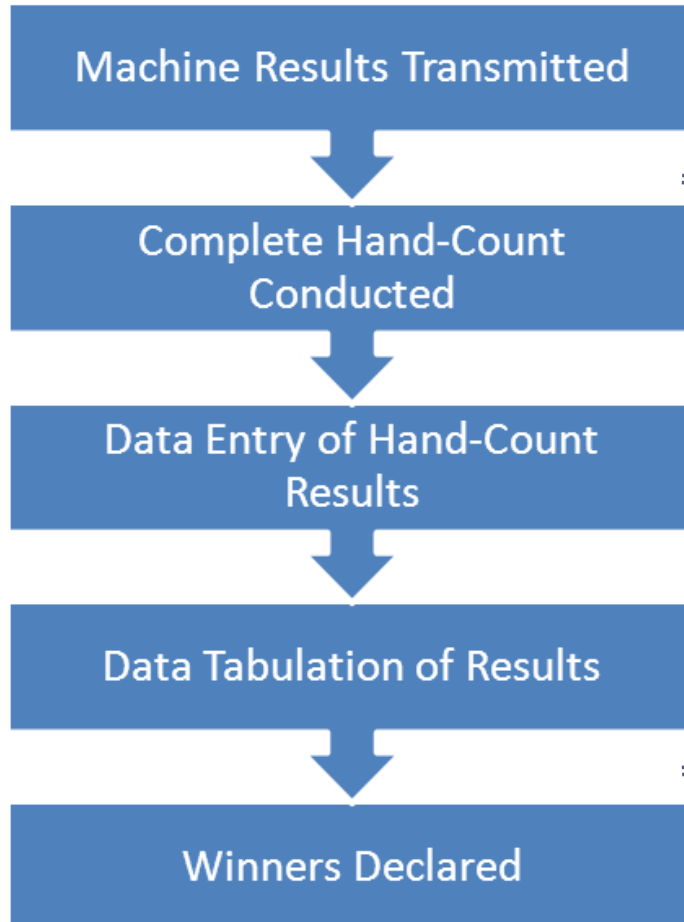
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- ▶ DS200 tabulators
- ▶ Ballot imaging technology
- ▶ CVR exportable data file
- ▶ MS Excel compatible

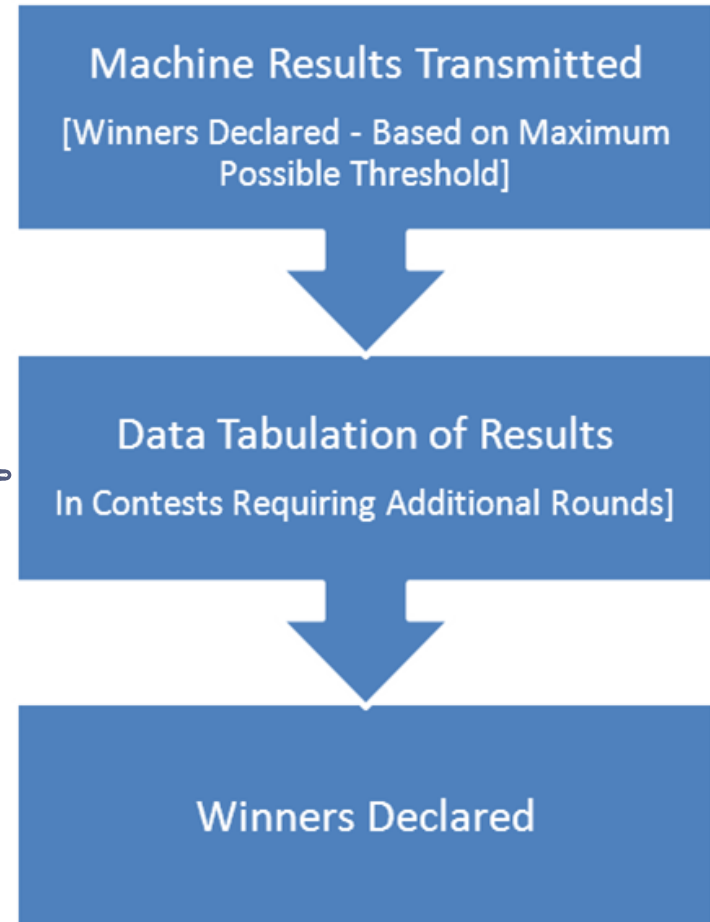


# Technical Improvements

## 2009 RCV Minneapolis Method

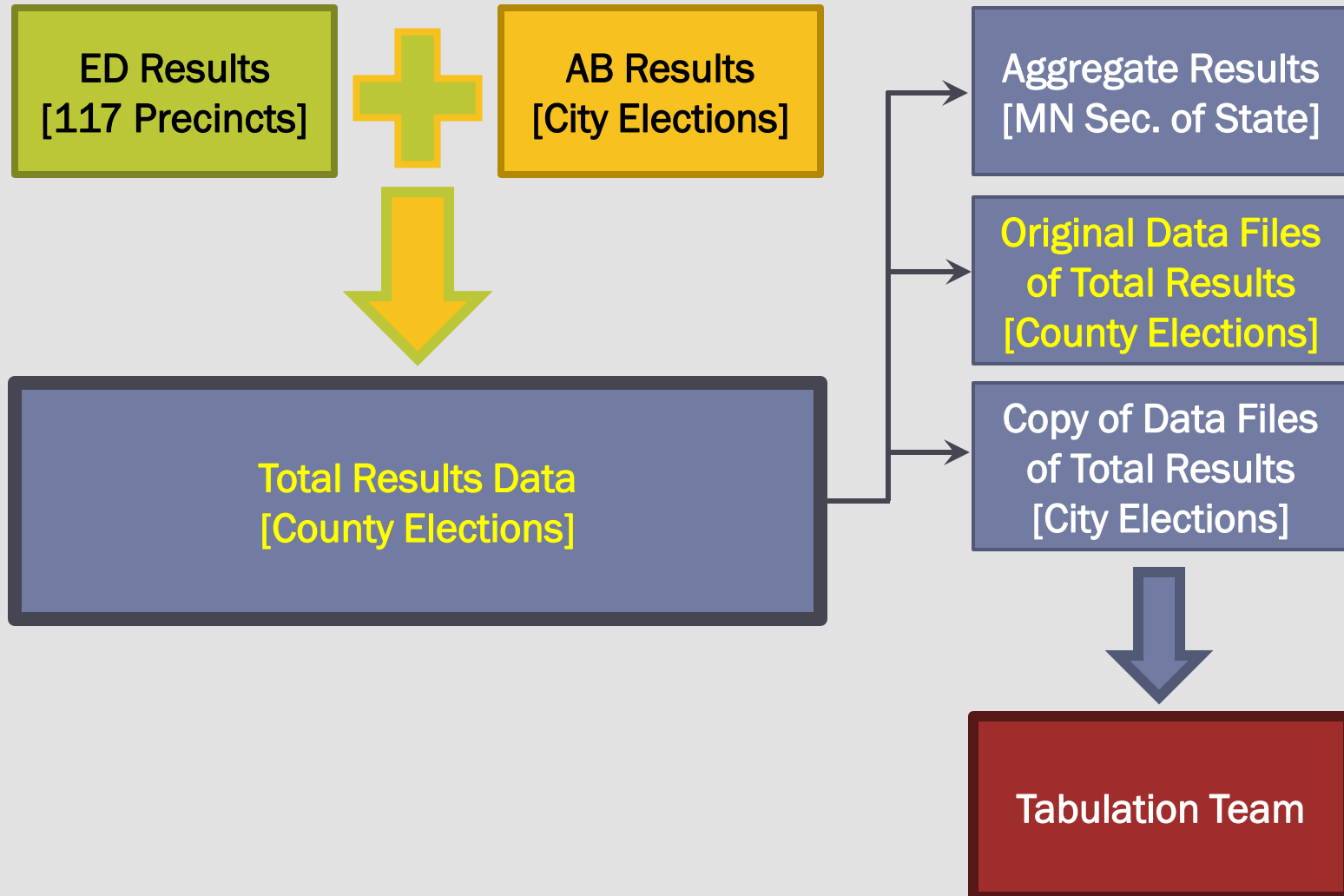


## 2013 RCV Minneapolis Method





# Tabulation Process



# Voter Error & Voter Intent

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- ▶ Minn. Stat. 204C.22—

*“A ballot shall not be rejected for a technical error that does not make it impossible to determine the voter's intent.”*

- ▶ RCV requires additional policy guidance to address:

- Overvoting = <1%
- Skipped rankings = <1%
- Repeat rankings = 3%

*2013 Ordinance Amendment equalized the treatment for all RCV-specific errors and provided consistent treatment in favor of voters.*

# Rate of RCV-Specific Type Errors

SUMMARY OF RCV BALLOT ERRORS		
TYPE OF ERROR	TYPE OF RACE	PERCENTAGE
Overvote	Single-Seat	0.16%
Overvote	Multi-Seat	0.25%
Overvote	All Races	0.19%
Skipped Ranking	All Races	0.35%
Repeat Candidate	1-2 Candidates	6.84%
Repeat Candidate	3+ Candidates	2.26%
Repeat Candidate	All Races	3.28%

*92% of surveyed voters indicated they were aware of RCV.  
81% indicated that they were “perfectly well” or “fairly well”  
informed of the process of marking and casting an RCV ballot.*

# Voter Choice Drop-Off

## SUMMARY OF CHOICE DROP-OFF

RACE	3 CHOICES	2 CHOICES	1 CHOICE
Mayor (35 candidates)	76.3%	11.1%	12.6%
Council Ward (1 candidate)	2.3%	1.5%	96.1%
Council Ward (2 candidates)	3.9%	26.7%	69.4%
Council Ward (3+ candidates)	44.5%	22.1%	33.4%
Board of Estimate (4 candidates)	42.6%	29.2%	28.2%
Park At-Large (10 candidates)	60.6%	15.0%	24.4%
Park District (1 candidate)	1.6%	1.0%	97.4%
Park District (2 candidates)	3.1%	36.9%	59.9%

*The number of choices used by voters to express preferences increased in competitive races with 3 or more candidates.*

# Election Judges

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- ▶ Minn. Stat. § 204B.22 = minimum 4 judges per precinct
- ▶ “Basic rubric” = 1 EJ per 150 voters
- ▶ Staffing model impacted by—
  - ▶ Type : local, state, or federal and primary or general
  - ▶ Voter turnout analysis and trends
  - ▶ Ballot content: offices, candidates, and questions

*In Minneapolis, the staffing model focuses on “team judges,” and does not include the two leadership positions – head and assistant head judges.*

# 2013 Municipal Election Staffing Model

## STAFFING PROJECTIONS AT 60% OF REGISTERED VOTERS

VOTERS	PRECINCTS	TEAM EJs	HEAD/ASST. EJs	TOTAL STAFFING
<625	11	5	2	7
626-775	13	6-7	2	8-9
776-900	13	8	2	10
901-1,025	16	9	2	11
1,026-1,150	16	10	2	12
1,151-1,275	13	11	2	13
1,276-1,400	22	12	2	14
>1,400	13	13-16	2	15-18
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>1,137</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>Avg. = 11.7</b>

# Language Support & Translation

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LANGUAGE SKILLS AMONG ELECTION JUDGES		
LANGUAGE	TEAM EJs	STUDENT EJs
American Sign Language	24	0
Hmong	58	11
Oromo	18	0
Somali	172	17
Spanish	340	7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>35</b>



# Voter Outreach & Education

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1. Date, time(s), and polling place locations for the election;
2. Ballot content—including offices and questions;
3. How to properly mark and cast an RCV ballot; and
4. Why voting in the municipal election matters.



# Independent Assessments

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1. *Exhibit A: Survey of Voters, Non-Voters, Election Judges & Candidates in the November 2013 Municipal Election – Morris Leatherman Company*
2. *Exhibit B: Observation & Recommendations of the November 2013 Municipal Election – Connie Schmidt, CERA*

# Schmidt Assessment - Findings

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1. Overall, general compliance with legal mandates, policy requirements, and industry best practices
2. Areas for future improvement:
  - Increase staffing levels, similar to other first-class municipalities
  - Consolidation of operations in a single facility
  - Financial planning that better meets operating needs
3. Reflecting the recently published report of the Presidential Election Commission:

*“[t]he electorate seeks above all modern, efficient, and responsive administrative performance in the conduct of elections...”*

# Morris Leatherman Survey - Findings

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1. Voters who did participate in the 2013 Municipal Election were more likely to be:
  - Caucasian
  - Middle-age and older (45 years +)
  - More educated (college graduate)
  - Higher income (\$50,001 +)
  
2. Voters who did not participate in the 2013 Municipal Election were more likely to be:
  - African-American
  - Older (64 years +)
  - Less educated (HS diploma or less)
  - Lower income (under \$25,000 annual)

# Voter Survey – OF VOTERS

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1. **92% of responding voters participated in-person at the assigned precinct on Election Day.**
  - Emphasize need for adequate number of precincts, precinct size, and appropriate polling place
2. **8% of responding voters participated via absentee balloting.**
  - Hispanic/Latino
  - Annual income of \$75,000 +
3. **92% knew RCV would be used in the election before voting.**
4. **81% knew how RCV functioned “perfectly well” or “fairly well” prior to voting.**

# Voter Survey – OF VOTERS

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5. 82% of responding voters indicated that ranked more than one candidate.
6. 87% of responding voters found ranking to be simple.
7. Voters were split on the opinion of RCV:
  - 39% prefer RCV
  - 41% prefer traditional (FPTP) voting
8. 77% were “very confident” or “confident” that all ballots were accurately counted using RCV.

# Voter Survey – OF NON-VOTERS

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1. 33% of responding non-voters indicated they didn't have time to vote.
2. 12% of responding non-voters chose not to participate because they dislike RCV.
3. 28% of responding non-voters report they don't care to vote in municipal elections.
4. **40% of non-voters chose not to participate because they:**
  - Don't like Ranked-Choice Voting (12%)
  - Don't like voting in municipal elections (28%)



# Voter Survey – OF CANDIDATES

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1. **Impact of RCV on campaigns:**
  - 32% saw a “positive impact”
  - 30% saw a “negative impact”
  - 32% saw “little or no impact”
2. **65% of responding candidates reported campaign strategies changed because of RCV.**
3. **Candidates reported preferring the voting system:**
  - 62% prefer traditional (FPTP) method
  - 32% prefer RCV method
4. **73% of candidates reported confidence that ballots were accurately counted with RCV.**

# Recommendations

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## 1. Clarify definition of “tabulation center”

- Current language is applicable to a physical hand-count
- Recommend matching provisions for other types of elections where automated systems are used to tabulate results

## 2. Amend process for mathematical elimination

- Recognize impact of voting system, including exportable data file
- Allow for “batch elimination” based on fuller data availability

## 3. Increase municipal filing fee(s)

- Support efforts to increase municipal filing fee(s), as recommended by the Minneapolis Charter Commission

